



A/R 5-620

## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES Administrative Requirements Manual

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A/R Title: ALS Transfer of Calls to BLS

Supersedes: April 16, 2003 Advisory, "Transferring Down a Call from ALS to BLS"

**Purpose:** The purpose of this A/R is to emphasize that the basic duties of all EMTs, pursuant to 105 CMR 170.355, are to assess and treat patients in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols, to transport patients to appropriate health care facilities, and to document the assessment and care they provided.

**Requirements:** Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel who have established direct patient contact must complete an appropriate assessment in accordance with the standards of their certification and training. Based on the findings of that assessment, ALS personnel then have a duty to provide appropriate treatment in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols. If an ALS intervention is initiated, or could be anticipated, for the patient, ALS personnel are required to attend the patient throughout transport, under 105 CMR 170.305(E)(2).

If ALS personnel determine that an ALS intervention is not needed or anticipated, and Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel are in accord with transfer of the patient to their care for transport, the patient may be transferred to BLS for transport to an appropriate health care facility. ALS ambulance services and their medical directors must provide their ALS personnel policy guidance and instruction for performing appropriate patient assessments and for documenting the results of such assessments for all patients.

**Other Policies and A/Rs:** See A/R 5-515/Appendix C of the Statewide Treatment Protocols, "Withholding and Cessation of Resuscitation by EMTs"; A/R 5-615, "Cancellation of ALS," for BLS and other authority cancellation of ALS, and September 27, 2002 Advisory, "Treat and Release; Patient Refusals," for patient refusals.